



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

DHR Board
Friday, August 24, 2012
9:00 a.m.

Telephonic (This meeting was time-sensitive and the board was unable to meet in person. The meeting by phone was necessary for the board to fulfill its duty to approve DHR's budget request.)

Members Present: Ben Jung, Redmond Jones, Jill Olsen, Jennifer Upah, Sherri Soich, Karen Mackey, Floyd Winter, Bob Tyson (joined at 9:08), LaSheila Yates (joined in progress), San Wong (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Mark Alba, Joan Jaimes

Guests: Heidi Smith, Deputy Director; Mary Bowser, budget analyst; Paul Stageberg, CJJP Administrator; Bill Brand, CAS Administrator; Danielle Plogmann, staff.

Call to order: Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Motion: Mackey moved to approve the August 10, 2012 meeting minutes.

Second: Winter seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous approval – Jones, Olsen, Upah, Jung, Soich, Mackey, Winter.

Public comment: None.

Department's budget request – Director Wong explained the budget requests are divided by state, federal and other. The federal breakdown is provided for information, but the focus of the meeting is on the state appropriation. The budgets for the offices of CAS were also broken out, keeping with a previous request from the board.

There are two new requests from CJJP division that are on separate documents. One is the CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) request is for an additional \$2 million in infrastructure funds. There is a second request for the Justice Data Warehouse to purchase a new server. Wong explained she and Paul Stageberg will meet with the state's new Chief Information Officer to discuss how to integrate the equipment with the state infrastructure.

Chair Olsen spoke as the representative from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, expressing concern that the Office on the Status of Women has gone from three ~~oref~~ four staff to just .5 this year. She said priorities have been compromised and that commissioners are now having to carry out the work that staff used to do – for instance, with the Women's Hall of Fame event.

Director Wong explained that the Department has not reduced staff since she took over a year ago, and that she expects the CAS Division to stay at status quo funding. When the Department and the CAS division reorganized, the intent was for offices to work together. Moving forward, staff will continue working across offices, but staff will have a particular area of expertise. CAS Administrator Heidi Smith will be responsible for making sure staff are assigned appropriately. San also noted that there will be another person hired to work with the Office on the Status of Women. It is taking some time to fill the vacancy from Lori SchraderBachar's resignation.

Jones said that when the budget becomes more friendly, he is not supportive of having staff not working directly with commissions. For example, this year the commission is having to draft letters on its legislative issues and he would prefer staff to do this.



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Wong acknowledged the group's concerns and agreed that commissioners are being asked to do more as the Department has diminished capacity. She noted the Department is working to make sure the guidance the board gives is implemented. Wong said the board might need to consider if the Department needs to lessen the work load on staff so staff can do more to support the work of the board and commissions. Wong noted staff would have to do less of something else to provide more support to commissioners.

Wong concluded by telling the board their presence is critical and the Department is building capacity because of their involvement.

Yates asked if dollars could be set aside for an awards ceremony the Commission of Persons with Disabilities is planning. Wong noted that such requests should be made to the commission's executive Officer, who will pass it on to the Division Administrator. The administrator will see if there is money in the budget, keeping in mind the budget is status quo. Yates said she appreciated knowing the process, so the group can plan accordingly.

Chair Olsen encouraged all board members to work with their respective commissions to come up with a list of priorities. She would like the board's strategic planning to reflect and recognize those priorities. She challenged each board member to bring those priorities to the next strategic planning meeting in September or October.

Motion: Mackey moved acceptance of the entire budget as presented.

Second: Upah seconded.

Discussion: Tyson asked to receive the budget documents again.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously – Jones, Olsen, Upah, Jung, Soich, Mackey, Winter, Tyson, Yates

Tyson gave a report on the NAACP's recent meeting with Governor Branstad. The group's priorities include reducing the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans, strengthening education, weeding out bias in employment practices, keeping DHR and the Board intact to maintain effectiveness in serving people of color. This includes funding an executive officer for the Office on the Status of African Americans. Tyson said this position could provide leadership for research, best practices and community engagement, and partner with the NAACP. The group asked the governor to work with them for advocacy.

Chair Olsen thanked Tyson for sharing concern for staff support with the Governor. The Board discussed meeting with the governor, and decided to discuss the strategy for such a meeting when the group meets again in September. Director Wong will work with the Governor's Office to see if he can attend the October meeting.

The next meeting is September 19. Staff member Danielle Plogmann will contact board members with time and location. Please note, this will be scheduled with enough time for strategic planning, but could become a regular meeting if the facilitator is unable to attend. We won't know this until the week of the meeting.

Motion: Jones moved to adjourn.

Second: Jung seconded

Vote: Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, staff.